

IMPORTANT 1955 FOREST INSECT OUTBREAKS
CALIFORNIA REGION

There has been little change in the forest insect situation in California since 1954. The Douglas-fir beetle outbreak in the Douglas-fir stands of the north coast is continuing, but is somewhat lower over the area as a whole. The lodgepole needle miner-mountain pine beetle complex, which is creating another ghost forest in recreational areas in Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks is continuing at a high level. The fir engraver beetle is continuing to cause heavy scattered losses throughout the Sierras. The Jeffrey pine beetle is still at epidemic levels within most of its range. The western pine beetle appears to be increasing slightly over the low level of the previous season. Ips bark beetles are showing epidemic tendencies in local areas and are generally at a high epidemic level in southern California. Insect damage to sugar pine and Douglas-fir seeds and cones continues at a high level.

Douglas-fir beetle - *Dendroctonus pseudotsugae* Hopk.

Host: Douglas-fir

Current conditions: Moderate group killing over 250,000 acres on the Klamath, Six Rivers, and Shasta-Trinity National Forests.

Trend: Generally downward for the region as a whole.

Lodgepole needle miner - *Recurvaria milleri* Busck.

Host: Lodgepole pine.

Current conditions: Severe defoliation on about 50,000 acres in Yosemite National Park and about 3,000 acres in Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park. Many trees are being killed by defoliators alone. More important is the weakening effect on the trees which is giving rise to heavy group killing by the mountain pine beetle.

Trend: Continuing high epidemic.

Mountain pine beetle - *Dendroctonus monticolae* Hopk.

Host: Lodgepole, ponderosa, and sugar pines.

Current conditions: Very heavy losses in lodgepole pine in the Conness and Alkali Creek drainages in Yosemite National Park, where it is estimated there are 46,000 currently infested trees on 5,400 acres. Heavy losses in ponderosa locally at Crystal Bay near Lake Tahoe. Light losses in sugar pine over the region as a whole.

Trend: Continuing high epidemic in lodgepole pine; continuing epidemic locally in ponderosa pine. Some increase in sugar pine.

Jeffrey pine beetle - *Dendroctonus jeffreyi* Hopk.

Host: Jeffrey pine.

Current conditions: Losses generally epidemic on the Inyo National Forest and portions of the Plumas.

Trend: No change from 1954.

Western pine beetle - *Dendroctonus brevicomis* Lec.

Host: Ponderosa pine and Coulter pine.

Current conditions: Losses in ponderosa and Coulter pine are generally endemic throughout the region.

Trend: A slight increase over 1954.

Fir engraver beetle - *Scolytus ventralis* Lec.

Host: White and red firs.

Current conditions: High endemic losses over the region as a whole.

Trend: A slight decrease from 1954.

Pine Engraver beetle - *Ips confusus* Lec and *Ips oregoni* (Eichl.)

Host: Ponderosa, Coulter and Jeffrey pine.

Current conditions: Infestation spotty over the State as a whole, with major damage in southern California recreation forests.

Trend: Generally upward for the State as a whole.

Sugar pine cone beetle - *Conophthorus lambertianae* Hopk.

Host: Sugar pine

Current conditions: Very high losses to a light sugar pine cone crop.

Trend: Unknown.

Douglas-fir cone and seed insects.

Host: Douglas-fir

Current conditions: Heavy losses to a light cone and seed crop.

Trend: Unknown.

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